Dear Jim, Lane/Ming 9/18/76

I've just read Lane's first Newswork piece, that of several weeks ago.

It is informative.

It also confirms by belief that the thing to do now, as it relates to him as dinstinguished from what I can see no immediate way of doing anything about, the Black Caucus, is to let him go ahead. We can't stop him and he will in the end be more helpful. This is the kind of wretch he is.

His propaganda approach in this is good. He begins by trying to convert a failure, when he took the short trip from New Orleans to Memphis and failed, into a means of pretending that everything is his own work. Without doubt he flew up as soon as King was killed. He was then living in New Orleans while milking the Garrison teat.

I don't remember if I referred to Newsum, his spelling, in Frame-Up. But I am sure that if Mark learned of this then, when my source, Matt Herron did, he'd have said so in this piece. Probably just mentioned by one of the others he spoke to when he was in Memphis recently, not then. I gave Les Payne a set of these notes. If one of the Memphians did not recall it, perhaps having been reminded by Les one did.

At the end of the piece there are the typical Lane notes. One is very helpful. He gives his sources. Les' pieces are not mentioned. But he does give sources and in a sense that conveys all sources. Naturally Frame-Up also is not mentioned. He was entirely unable to go farthur than Les did. In fact, he did not go nearly as far.

Except for some meaningless added details from Holloman, the kind for which Les would not have taken space, he adds nothing. More, he does not begin to have the shifting of the firemen story, which persuades me that here he had no first-person sources. I knew more of this the week of the crime than he here reports where his handling makes it germane.

What he appears to have done is capitalize his friendship with Mann, who he calls an old and dear friend.

These whores are enjoying each other. I suspect that Mann opened doors for him.

The pretense of first-person and original work is clear. This, too, is typical Lane. But except for the trivialities about Holloman's assignments, there is nothing at all new in this. Combined with his giving of sources, which covers even what I did with the Frazier affidavit, I think he has done a little to make it possible to do something.

As of now I'm inclined to favor a suit against him and others, including NBC, in Washington. I am inclined to believe that there is a commerical conspiracy involved. I think that it may provide the means of saving the Black Caucus from its own following of the white political precets. I am also of the opinion that if we can be patient and let them make a more complete record it will be better. Remember, my first deal with Feed was also in Washington and he, too, is part of this. That was in the motion-picture building at 16 and I, with Dave Polland, who was supposed to rep. me. This, of course, involves Polland, of whose former addresses tou know enough.

Where this piece really stoops to the ridiculous is with Murtagh. Lane says he had a personal interview with him. The direct quotes he uses are restricted to what had been published long ago, with Murtagh as the source. As I recall even on the Today Show.

Jimmy did not tell Jerry about being interviewed by Lane of Mann from what Jerry to me in a tape I reeeived yesterday. He then had just received Jimmy's 9/9 letter, some of which he read to me.

Best,